

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of July 25, 2011, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 17. Accordingly, claims 1-59 are pending, with claims 1, 2, and 21 in independent form, and claims 21-58 presently withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

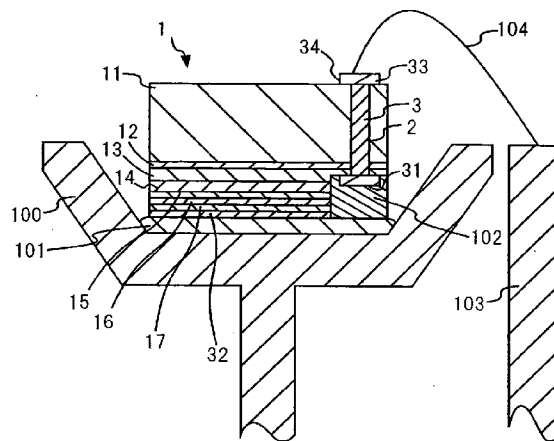
Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for “said envelope.” Claim 17 has been amended to include certain features of claim 10, namely “an envelope [that] forms at least partially around said semiconductor function region.” Accordingly, “said envelope” now has antecedent basis in claim 17, and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 13-16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kohno et al. (PCT Patent Publication No. WO 03/044872, “Kohno,” with references herein to its English equivalent, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0012109). Applicants do not concede that the Office's positions with regard to these claims are correct. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to cover components in which the “connecting conductor material ... extends entirely through said active zone.” Applicants have also amended claim 2 to cover components in which the “connecting conductor material ... extends over an entire length of said active zone in a direction orthogonal to the main direction.” These amendments are supported by the published version of Applicants' specification (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2009/0065800 at, for example, paragraphs 0087, 0156-0182, and in Figures 1 and 2.

Kohno does not disclose components in which a connecting conductor material extends entirely through the active zone, or over an entire length of the active zone, as required by claims 1 and 2, respectively. For example, Figure 3 of Kohno is reproduced below. As shown in Figure 3, neither electrode 31 nor conductive material 3 extends entirely through active zone 15, nor

over an entire length of active zone 15. Accordingly, while Applicants do not concede that the Office's interpretation of various elements in Kohno is correct, Applicants submit that Kohno fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the optoelectronic components covered by independent claims 1 and 2.



For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8, 13-16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-12 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kohno alone, or Kohno further in view of Oshio et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0042865, “Oshio”). Without conceding that the combination of Kohno and Oshio is correct, Applicants note that Oshio does not cure Kohno's deficiencies with respect to independent claims 1 and 2, at least because Oshio does not provide any reason why a person of ordinary skill in the would have modified Kohno's device to include a connecting conductor material extends entirely through the active zone thereof, or over an entire length of the active zone. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are patentable over both Kohno and Oshio, and claims 9-12 and 17-19 are patentable over Kohno and Oshio for at least the same

reasons. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

A detailed explanation of the apparent rejection has not been provided to the best of Applicants' knowledge. To the extent that claim 59 stands rejected as either anticipated by Kohno, or obvious over Kohno and Oshio, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 59 is patentable for at least the same reasons explained above.

Applicants ask that the application be allowed. Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Any circumstance in which Applicants have: (a) addressed certain comments of the Examiner does not mean that Applicants concede other comments of the Examiner; (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims; or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that Applicants concede any of the Examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Fees for the Petition for Extension of Time are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sean M. Dean, Ph.D., J.D.
Reg. No. 46,656

Customer Number 26161
Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (877) 769-7945